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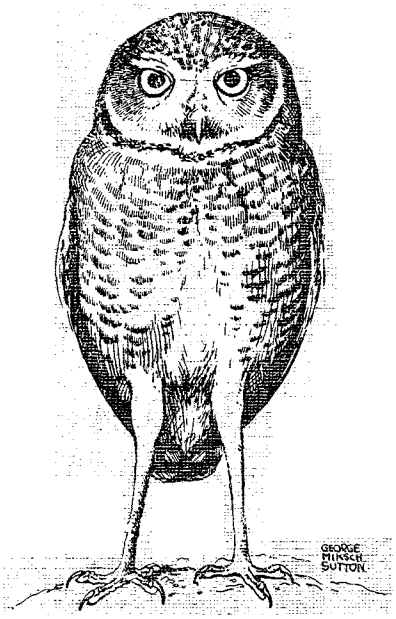

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TABLE OF CONTENTS ON BACK COVER

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Other officers are: President, Thomas E. Labedz, 1241 Starview Lane, Lincoln, Nebraska 68512, Vice-president, Douglas G. Thomas, 1035 Mississippi, Alliance, Nebraska 69301, and Secretary, Mrs. Ruth C. Green, 506 W. 31st Avenue, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005.

THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH (1988) ANNUAL MEETING

The eighty-seventh Annual Meeting was held 20-22 May, at Camp Kiwanis in Scottsbluff, at the invitation of the Wildcat Audubon Society. There were about 85 effective registrations, including two from the state of Washington, one from New Jersey, and one from New Hampshire. There was the usual get-together and slide show on Friday night, Saturday and Sunday mornings were for birding, Saturday afternoon was the formal meeting, and Saturday night the banquet. In the afternoon R. George Corner spoke on Fossil Birds of Nebraska, II. (The II is in recognition of Myron H. Swenk's article on fossil birds of Nebraska (*NBR* 1:50-53). Eileen Kirsch spoke on The Ecology of Least Terns and Piping Plovers on the Lower Platte River, and Gary Lingle on Least Tern and Piping Plover Nesting Ecology on the Central Platte River. The following officers were elected: Thomas E. Labedz, Lincoln, President; Douglas G. Thomas, Alliance, Vice-president; Mrs. Alice Kenitz, Gering, Treasurer; Mrs. Ruth Green, Bellevue, Secretary; Dr. Rosalind Morris, Lincoln, Librarian; and R. G. Cortelyou, Omaha, Editor. It was announced that the fall meeting would be at the 4-H camp at Halsey on 8-9 October, and the 1989 Annual Meeting at the same site 19-21 May. There will be a work day a day earlier in which those members who can will assist in creating a humingbird and butterfly garden which will contain a plaque in remembrance of Vera Coons, and the memorial funds accumulated in her name will be used to pay for part of the plantings. At the banquet Dr. Stephen Kerr, who is recently back from assisting in transplanting black rhinoceroses in Africa, spoke on Current Wildlife Conditions in Africa. Wayne Mollhoff spoke on the status of the Bird Atlas project; Ray Korpi was presented a certificate of appreciation for his one year of service as Vice-president; Dr. Neva Pruess was presented a certificate of appreciation for her 24 years of service, 7 as Secretary and 17 as Librarian; and R. G. Cortelyou was presented a framed Dr. Johnsgard print of dancing sandhill cranes in appreciation of his 24 years as Editor.

There were rather general rains before and after the meeting, but rain did not interfere with the field trips, except that some changes in route were due to road conditions. The guided trips were south to the Wildcat Hills, in Banner Co., east into Morrill Co., and north into Sioux Co. The total count was 148 species, plus a Mourning/MacGillivrary's Warbler, and an unidentified Empidonax flycatcher, which might have increaed the count if it had been positively identified. Scotts Bluff Co. accounted for 129 of the records, plus the Mourning/MacGillivray's Warbler and the Empidonx sp., and of these, 45 were recorded only in Scotts Bluff Co.; 55 species were recorded in Banner Co., 3 there only; 40 were recorded in Morrill Co. 1 there only, and 61 were recorded in Sioux Co., 11 there only. In the following tabulation X is used for records in Scotts Bluff Co., B for Banner Co., M for Morril Co., and S for Sioux Co. The count was: Common Loon X; Pied-billed X,S, Eared X,S, and Western X Grebes; American White Pelican M, Double-crested Cormorant X; Great Blue X,B,M,S, and Green-backed X Herons; Black-crowned Night-Heron X, Canada Goose X,M,S, Wood Duck X, Green-winged Teal X,S, Mallard X,B,M,S, Northern Pintail X,M,S; Blue-winged X,M,S, and Cinnamon S Teal; Northern Shoveler X,M,S, Gadwall X,S, Redhead X,M,S, Ring-necked Duck S, Lesser Scaup X, Ruddy Duck X,S, Turkey Vulture X,B, Osprey X; Swainson's X,S and Red-tailed X,M Hawks; Golden Eagle S, American Kestrel X,B,M,S, Prairie Falcon X, Ring-necked Pheasant X,S, Sharp-tailed Grouse X,S, Wild Turkey X,B, Northern Bobwhite X, Sora X, American Coot X,S, Killdeer X,B,M,S, American Avocet X,M; Spotted X,S and Upland M,S Sandpipers; Long-billed Curlew X,S, Sanderling X,S; Semipalmated S and Stilt S Sandpipers; Long-billed Dowitcher S, Common Snipe M,S; Wilson's X,M,S and Red-necked X,S Phalaropes; Franklin's X and Ring-billed X,M Gulls; Forster's X,M and Black X,S Terns; Rock X,B,M and Mourning X,B,M,S Doves; Common Barn-Owl X; Great Horned X,M and Burrowing X,M,S Owls; Chimney X and White-throated X Swifts; Belted Kingfisher X,S; Red-headed X,B, Downy X, and Hairy X Woodpeckers; Northern Flicker X,B,S, Western Wood-Pewee X,B, Least Flycatcher X, Empidonax sp. X, Say's Phoebe X,S; Western X,B,M,S and Eastern X,B,M,S Kingbirds; Horned Lark X,B,M,S; Violet-green X, Northern Rough-winged X,M,S, Bank X,M,S, Cliff X,B,M,S, and Barn X,B,M,S Swallows: Blue X,B and Pinyon X Jays; Black-billed Magpie X,B,M, American Crow X,B,M, Black-capped Chickadee

X,B; Red-breasted X,B and Pygmy X,B Nuthatches; Rock X,S and House X,B Wrens; Eastern X,B and Mountain X,B Bluebirds;. Veery X; Gray-cheeked X, Swainson's X,B, and Hermit X Thrushes; American Robin X,B,M, Gray Catbird X, Northern Mockingbird X, Brown Thrasher X, B, Water Pipit X, Cedar Waxwing X,B, Loggerhead Shrike X,S, European Starling X,B,M,S; Bell's X,B, Solitary B, Warbling X,B, and Red-eyed X,B Vireos; Tennessee X,B, Orange-crowned B, Yellow X,B,M, Chestnut-sided S, Yellow-rumped X,B, Blackburnian X, and Blackpoll X Warblers; American Redstart X, Morning/MacGilivray's Warbler X, Common Yellowthroat X, Wilson's Warbler X, Yellow-breasted Chat X, Western Tanager X; Rose-breasted B, Black-headed X, and Blue X Grosbeaks; Lazuli X,B, Indigo X, and Painted X Buntings; Green-tailed B,S and Rufous-sided X,B Towhees; American Tree X, Chipping X,B, Clay-colored X,B, Brewer's S, Vesper B,S, and Lark X,B,M,S Sparrows; Lark Bunting X.B,M,S; Grasshopper S, Lincoln's X, and White-crowned X,B Sparrows; McCown's S and Chestnut-collared S Longspurs; Bobolink X, Red-winged Blackbird X,B,M,S, Western Meadowlark X,B,M,S; Yellow-headed X,M and Brewer's X Blackbirds; Comon Grackle X,B,M,S, Brown-headed Cowbird X,B,M,S; Orchard X and Northern X Orioles; Pine Grosbeak X, House Finch X, Red Crossbill X,B, Pine Siskin X,B, American Goldfinch X,B, and House Sparrow X,B,M,S.

1987 NEBRASKA NESTING SURVEY

Compiled by Dr. Eather V. Bennett

Data on the 1987 nesting season in Nebraska were received from 32 observers and three organizations, reporting on 72 species from 46 counties, Counties on the tabulation are listed in a west to east order, with the northernmost of the approximately equal locations given first. Numbers represent Nest Record Cards; A (for aliment) represents carrying food; C represents colony for which no nest numbers were reported (but 15 individuals were reported); F represents feeding young; N represents nests observed for which no Nest Record Card was submitted; P represents brood patch; X represents a nest built and occupied for a period of time in an incubating mode, but in which no eggs were laid (*NBR* 56:16); and Y represents young observed. Underlined numbers represent nests reported on Colonial Register Forms. GPC in the following paragraph represents Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; WAS represents Wachiska Audubon Society; and WRT represents Wildlife Rescue Team.

Twelve species were reported on 119 North American Nest Record Cards; three species were reported on Colonial Bird Register Forms; and 57 species were reported without cards, for a total of 72 species. The counties, with column numbers in the tabulation shown in parentheses, and the contributors are: Box Butte (5) GPC; Boyd (24) GPC; Butler (38) GPC; Cass (46) GPC; Cedar (36) D. A. Stage; Chase (9) Iola Pennington; Cherry (7) Naomi Brill, R. G. Cortelyou, Jack Shafer, Lona Shafer; Colfax (37) GPC; Dakota (42) Bill Huser, Jerry Probst, Randall Williams; Dawes (4) GPC, Ruth Green; Dawson (19) GPC; Dodge (39) GPC; Douglas (44) Charles Burnett, R. G. Cortelyou, Ellen Davidson, R. F. Ferguson, Alice Rushton, Joan Timmermans, Ione Werthman; Dundy (10) GPC; Frontier (16) GPC; Furnas (21) GPC; Garden (6) Royce R. Huber, Brad McKinney; Gosper (20) GPC; Hall (28) Bill Lemburg; Hamilton (31) Norris Alfred; Harlan (23) GPC; Hayes (13) GPC; Hitchcock (14) GPC; Holt (25) GPC; Howard (27) Bill Lemburg; Kearney (26) Harold Turner; Keya Paha (18) GPC; Keith (8) GPC; Kimball (3) GPC; Knox (32) Lona Schreier; Lancaster (41) GPC, Thomas Labedz, WAS, WRT; Lincoln (12) GPC, Howard Wyman, Wilma Wyman; McPherson (11) Oona Bassett; Merrick (30) GPC; Nance (29) GPC; Platte (33) GPC; Polk (34) Norris Alfred; Red Willow (17) GPC; Rock (22) GPC; Sarpy (45) R. G. Cortelyou, Ruth Green, Rick Wright; Saunders (40) GPC, Marian Madigan; Scotts Bluff (2) Alice Kenitz; Sioux (1) GPC, Ruth Green, Diana Tomback; Thomas (15) Wm. C. Garthright; Washington (43) George E. Gage; York (35) Norris Alfred.

Game and Parks Commission employees and aides contributed Colonial Bird Register information and 86 Nest Record Cards. These individuals are: John J. Dinan, Michael Dwyer, Joe Gubanyi, Eileen Kirsch, Bob Linderholm, and Greg A. Wingfield. Thirty-two Nest Record Cards were contributed by D. A. Stage.

--- text continued on page 38

	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Kimball	Dawes	Box Butte	Garden	Cherry	Keith	Chase	Dundy	McPhereson	Lincoln	Hayes	Hitchcock	Thomas	Frontier	Red Willow	Keya Paha	Dawson	Gosper	Furnas
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-faced Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	NY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gr-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bl-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ferruginous Hawk	14	-	4	2	8	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Am. Kestrel	-	-	-	FY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prairie Falcon	NFY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R-n. Pheasant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Com. Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bl-neck. Stilt	-	-	-	-	-	NY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spotted Sandp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upland Sandp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Franklin's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Least Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	-
Rock Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Com. Barn-Owl	-	-	-	-	-	NY	-	2	-	-	-	14	7	17	-	2	5	-	-	3	2
Com. Nighthawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chimney Swift	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruby-thr. Hum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-head. Woodp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. Flicker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
East. Wood-Pewee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Willow Flyc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cr. Flyc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West. Kingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
East. Kingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Martin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cliff Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barn Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Rock	Harlan	Boyd	Holt	Kearney	Howard	Hall	Nance	Merrick	Hamilton	Knox	Platte	Polk	York	Cedar	Colfax	Butler	Dodge	Saunders	Lancaster	Dakota	Washington	Douglas	Sarpy	Cass	Total Cards
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-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NY	-	-	-	N	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	N	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	26

	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Kimball	Dawes	Box Butte	Garden	Cherry	Keith	Chase	Dundy	McPhereson	Lincoln	Hayes	Hitchcock	Thomas	Frontier	Red Willow	Keya Paha	Dawson	Gosper	Furnas
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Blue Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clark's Nutc.	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bl-cap. Chick.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E. Bluebird	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Robin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Europ. Starling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prothonotary Wrb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. Cardinal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vesper Sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-wing. Blkb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Br-headed Cowb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orchard Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	F	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Am Goldfinch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nest Cards																					
Individuals	14	-	4	2	8	-	-	2	-	1	-	14	8	17	-	2	5	-	-	3	2
Species	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
Colonial Cards																					
Individuals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	-
Species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
No Nest Cards	2	1	-	1	-	3	3	-	1	-	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Species	3	1	1	2	1	3		4	2	1	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1

The following 33 Nebraska species which were reported in 1987 were not reported in the 1986 Nesting Survey (*NBR* 55:30): White-faced Ibis, Trumpeter Swan, Snow Goose, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, American Kestrel, Wild Turkey, Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Franklin's Gull, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Clark's Nutcracker, American Crow, Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Dickcissel, Vesper Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

Twenty-eight species reported in the 1986 survey were not reported in 1987: Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Harrier, Golden Eagle, Killdeer, American Avocet, Common Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Lewis' Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Cassin's Kingbird, Bank Swallow, Black-billed Magpie, Mountain Bluebird, Solitary Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Blue Grosbeak, Chipping Sparrow, McCown's

Rock	Harlan	Boyd	Holt	Kearney	Howard	Hall	Nance	Merrick	Hamilton	Knox	Platte	Polk	York	Cedar	Colfax	Butler	Dodge	Saunders	Lancaster	Dakota	Washington	Douglas	Sarpy	Cass	Total Cards
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	NY	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-
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-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	119
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	12
1/1	C 1	56/3	49/2	-	-	-	38/2	22/2	-	24/2	47/2	-	-	-	45/2	23/2	46/2	85/2	-	-	-	30/2	32/2	57/2	637/3
	-	-	-	1	1	10	-	-	1	2	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	2	28	1	2	6	6	-	57
1	1	3	2	1	1	10	2	2		4	2		4	6	2	3	2	6	29	1	2	9	8	2	72

Longspur, and Western Meadowlark.

Anyone who sees evidence of nesting, young, or adult birds carrying nesting material, food, or fecal sacs, can submit the information without the use of a special form. The information should be easily separated by species and county. This information will be included in the Nebraska Nesting Survey by letters rather than by numbers.

Anyone who has found, or expects to find, an active nest is invited to request Nest Record Cards to use in reporting the nest. Each nest requires a separate card, except for colonial nesting species, which require either a separate card for each visit to the site or the use of the Colonial Bird Register forms.

Send your Nest Record Card requests and completed cards to Dr. Esther V. Bennett, 1641 Devoe Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68506.

(NOU is one of four organizations listed by *Birdscope* (2:1) as having contributed continuously to the nest record program since its start in 1965. Approximately 300,000 cards have been accumulated by the program. The four organizations, and the number of cards contributed, are: Brooks Bird Club (W. Va.) 11,525;

Detroit & Oakland Audubon Societies (Mich) 9,961; Kentucky Ornithological Society 3,766; NOU 8,940. The 1967 Nebraska Nesting Survey (*NBR* 36:35) was compiled by Dr. Bennet, as have the subsequent ones, and she has been the Nebraska contact for the Nest Card program during that period. --- *Ed.*)

TWO SPECIES OF MARSH WREN *(Cistothorus palustris)* IN NEBRASKA?

The consequences of a grand evolutionary experiment are evident throughout Nebraska. During the Pleistocene, many taxa were apparently separated into eastern and western populations. Today many of these eastern and western counterparts meet in the Great Plains, especially in Nebraska. Some pairs now hybridize freely (towhees, orioles, flickers), while others do not (buntings, grosbeaks, meadowlarks) (see Rising 1983).

The Marsh Wren is still another, previously unrecognized, taxon that consists of an eastern and western counterpart. Data from Nebraska and elsewhere in North America suggest that there are two forms of the Marsh Wren, perhaps as vocally different from each other as are the two *Sternella* meadowlarks. These two forms meet in Nebraska, and are perhaps sufficiently different and distinct that they should be called two separate species.

METHODS

During 5 through 13 June 1986 I tape-recorded Marsh Wrens at 11 localities in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Iowa (Fig. 1.). I also had recordings of

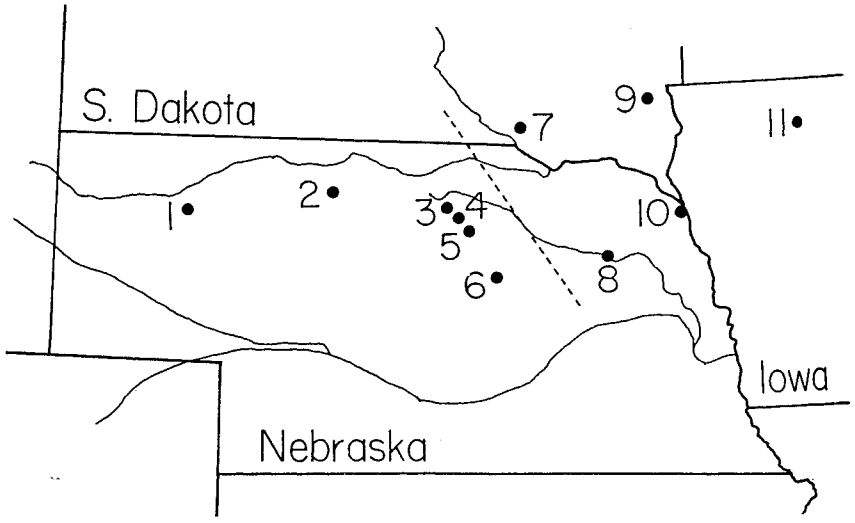

Figure 1. The 11 localities in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Iowa where Marsh Wrens were recorded. (1) Smith Lake, about 36 km south of Rushville; (2) Watts Lake and Hackberry Lake on the Valentine NWR; (3) Pony Lake, 23 km south of Newport; (4) Doolittle Lake, 21.5 mi (on county map) south and 5 mi east of Stuart; (5) Swan Lake, about 43 km south of Atkinson; (6) Ericson Lake, about km. south of Ericson; (7) Owens Bay at Lake Andes NWR; (8) privately-owned marshes on old oxbow of the Elkhorn River, about 7 km west-southwest of Stanton; (9) small marshes near Tea; (10) Crystal Cove State Park at South Sioux City; and (11) Deweys Pasture and Smiths Slough State Game Management Areas. Western Wrens are especially abundant and readily observed at locations 1-4; eastern Wrens tend to occur in smaller numbers within a given marsh, and they can be most readily observed at locations 7 and 9-11. The dashed line through O'Neill, Nebraska, is at the approximate center of a 100-km wide gap between the distributions of the western and eastern song populations of the Marsh Wren.

Marsh Wrens from a number of other locations in western (Colorado, California, Washington) and eastern (Manitoba, Illinois, New York, North Carolina, eastern Texas) North America. In the laboratory I made graphs of the songs on a digital spectrum analyzer. Film clippings of each bird were then measured and sorted as described in Kroodsma and Canady (1985).

RESULTS

I found no Marsh Wrens in a 100-km. wide corridor centered on O'Neill, Nebraska (Fig. 1). To the west of this corridor, all Wrens (except for two individuals) were of one singing style, and to the east all Wrens were of a very different singing style. The two exceptions among western birds were two males singing with pure eastern behaviors, one at Pony Lake and one at Doolittle Lake.

Most eastern birds introduced their songs with a unique nasal note, the same note that a nest-building male often gave repeatedly without the song. The song itself typically consisted of a few brief introductory notes, a "trill" of repeated syllables, and perhaps a brief concluding note. Songs were relatively "musical", and with a slowed-down tape recording could be heard to consist of a series of these very brief tonal (i.e., musical) notes.

Songs of western males, on the other hand, consisted of a much greater variety of sounds. They contained tonal sounds of greater duration and intensity, as well as more harsh, grating, broad-band noise. Western males would often sing these contrasting sounds back to back within the same song, or often string a number of contrasting songs together to produce "multiple songs".

To quantify these behaviors I measured all of the sonagrams (song graphs) of each male. I found that the behavior of males changed abruptly in northeastern Nebraska. The western males, for example, consistently repeated some song syllables within songs at slower rates and some at faster rates than did the more moderately-paced eastern males. The songs of western males thus contained not only a greater variety of sound quality but also a greater variety of temporal patterning. Western males also presented that greater variety of songs in a more invigorating performance. They tended to race through their repertoires without repeating each song type, so that as many as 50 different songs might be presented in a row. Eastern males, on the other hand, tended to savor each song type, and on average sang every other song type one extra time.

My estimates of song repertoire size (the number of different songs that an individual male is capable of singing) also differed markedly for the two styles of songsters. For eight western Marsh Wrens from the western Nebraska locations (1-6) an index of repertoire size ranged from 134 to 919 (median 211 song types). In contrast, for 12 eastern Marsh Wrens (locations 7-11) the index of repertoire size ranged from 30 to 58 (median 48 song types). The one eastern songster at Doolittle Lake and his immediate western-style neighbor revealed this east/west contrast especially well: estimates of repertoire size were 46 and 254, respectively, for those two males. The contrast in data from the eastern male and his immediate western-style neighbors from Pony Lake, Nebraska, was similar. The Doolittle Lake male and the Pony Lake male were pure eastern songsters not only in repertoire size but in all other aspects of their singing behaviors as well.

DISCUSSION

The behavioral differences between these two Marsh Wren song populations are both genetically and culturally based (Kroodsma and Canady, 1985). As determined in a laboratory experiment, eastern males are not capable of developing the large song repertoire of western males (genetic difference), but males can learn the individual songs of the other singing style (cultural difference).

In the central Great Plains of the United States there is minimal contact between these two Marsh Wren song populations. The 100-km Wrenless corridor in northeastern Nebraska contains little suitable habitat, and this lack of suitable habitat may be an effective isolating barrier between the two populations. On the western side of this barrier, among the easternmost populations of western Wrens, I did find two pure eastern songsters among about 80 western songsters at Pony and Doolittle Lakes. The origin of these two males is, of course, unknown, but I believe it is most likely that these two males hatched

and learned their songs among eastern populations and, after migration, they dispersed to the western populations.

The data for the Marsh Wren appear similar to those for the two meadowlark species. Both the Marsh Wrens and the meadowlarks lack striking plumage differences to distinguish them. Like the Marsh Wrens, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks can learn each others' songs in the laboratory (Lanyon 1957), and both tonal quality of songs and repertopire size differ markedly between the two meadowlark species (Falls and d'Agincourt, 1981). Additional surveys of Marsh Wrens will be needed to determine if one can occasionally find, as among meadowlarks (e.g., Rohwer, 1972), mixed pairings, morphologically intermediate individuals, and individuals singing both eastern and western songs. Whether or not these two Marsh Wrens should be classified as two species will depend on these surveys, perhaps in Saskatchewan, where the two songsters may also co-occur.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Without the help of numerous people in locating the Wrens in Iowa, South Dakota, and Nebraska, the Great Plains survey would have been impossible. I especially thank S. Anderson, E. Bitterbaum, G. Blankespoor, J. Dinsmore, D. Emrick, J. Gottschall, B. Huser, J. Jave, P. Johnsgard, L. McDaniels, (especially) W. Mollhoff, R. Rosche, J. and O. Schoenberger, D. Wolff, and many members of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union for their invaluable help. I also thank the National Science Foundation for financial support (BNS-8506996), and M. C. Baker, R. A. Canady, J. Picman, and J. Verner for supplying some of the tape recordings used in my surveys.

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(Condensed from an unpublished manuscript entitled "Two No ı American song populations of the Marsh Wren reach distributional limits in the Great Plains".)

Article redacted at the request of the author (March 2013).

OCCURRENCE OF ROSS' GEESE *(CHEN ROSSII)* DETECTED FROM AVIAN CHOLERA LOSSES

During the annual spring waterfowl migration, an estimated 5-7 million ducks and geese pass through the Nebraska Rainwater Basins area. The Rainwater Basins area covers all or parts of 17 counties in south-central Nebraska, encompassing some 4,200 square miles (see Figure 1). Wetlands of various size, depth, and water permanency are scattered throughout this area. These wetlands are important resting and feeding areas for ducks and geese on their migration north to the breeding grounds. Avian cholera, a highly infectious bacterial disease of waterfowl, has also been an annual visitor to the Rainwater Basins since 1975, killing from as many as an estimated 80,000 birds in 1980 to as few as 300 in 1978 (Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 1985). The die-off that occurred in the spring of 1975 was the first documentation of avian cholera in Nebraska. Wetlands are monitored by personnel of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission during spring migration in an effort to detect disease outbreaks. Waterfowl carcasses found are collected and incinerated to prevent spread of the disease

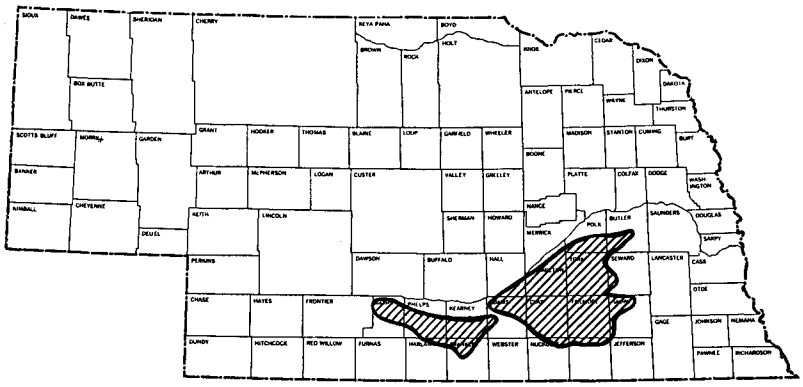

Figure 1. The Nebraska Rainwater Basins Area

Table 1 Species Composition of 1988 Avian Cholera Losses

Species	Number	Percent of Total
White-fronted Goose	714	29.9
Canada Goose	617	25.8
Snow Goose	491	20.6
Ross' Goose	15	.7
Pintail	254	10.6
Mallard	107	4.4
American Wigeon	73	3.0
Ring-necked Duck	32	1.3
Redhead	17	.8
Green-winged Teal	17	.8
Gadwall	15	.7
Other	35	1.4
Total	2,387	100.0

to healthy birds. A numerical count and determination of species composition of birds picked up from each wetland has been made annually since 1975. The species composition of birds retrieved in 1988 is shown in Table 1. Beginning in 1984, chronic outbreaks of avian cholera have also occurred in the late fall on Big Sandy Reservoir Number 1, located on the National Meat Animal Research Center, near Clay Center in Clay Co. Losses have ranged from an estimated 250 birds in 1987 up to as many as an estimated 1,800 in 1986.

In the spring of 1986, one Ross' Goose was retrieved on Mallard Haven Waterfowl Production Area (WPA), in Fillmore Co. Then, during the avian cholera outbreak in November 1986, a total of 10 Ross' Geese was picked up and identified by Game and Parks Commission personnel on Big Sandy Reservoir Number 1. During the spring 1987 avian cholera die-off, a total of 8 Ross' Geese was picked up on three different wetlands (Harvard WPA, Mallard Haven WPA, and Massie WPA) in Clay and Fillmore counties by field personnel of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In the spring of 1988 a total of 15 Ross' Geese was picked up on five different wetlands (Harvard WPA, Smith WPA, Mallard Haven WPA, Pintail Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Big Sandy Reservoir Number 2), again in Clay and Fillmore counties. The number of Ross' Geese retrieved during avian cholera outbreaks within the past 16 months (November 1986 - March 1988) totals 33 birds. From 1975 to 1986, records indicate only two Ross' Geese had been picked up during avian cholera outbreaks, one in spring 1984 in Clay Co. and one in spring 1983 in Phelps Co. A search of The Nebraska Bird Review indicates no previous documentation of Ross' Geese in any of the 17 Rainwater Basin counties since 1964. Annual occurrences during spring and fall migration are known from counties bordering the Missouri River and counties in the Central Panhandle. Based on the information presented above, it appears that there has been an increase in the occurrence of Ross' Geese in the Rainwater Basins during the past 4-5 years.

The reason for the apparent increase in numbers of Ross' Geese occurring in the Rainwater Basins area is unknown at this time. It is known that Ross' Geese associate freely with Lesser Snow Geese *(Chen caerulescens)* on the wintering grounds and will accompany them during migration. Data show there has

Table 2 Corresponding Number of Snow Geese Retrieved From Areas Where Ross' Geese Were Picked Up in 1988

Area	Number of Geese Ross'	Snow
Harvard WPA	1	143
Smith WPA	7	31
Mallard Haven WPA	4	79
Pintail WMA	2	19
Big Sandy Res. No. 2	1	6
Total	15	278

been a marked increase over the past 6-7 years in the number of Lesser Snow Geese using the Rainwater Basins during spring migration. Therefore, a possible explanation for the apparent increase in Ross' Geese may be due to the increase in numbers of Lesser Snow Geese in the basins and the close association of Ross' Geese with them. Table 2 shows the corresponding number of Lesser Snow Geese retrieved from areas where Ross's Geese were picked up in 1988.

An international Snow Goose neck-banding project is currently underway and should provide new information concerning Lesser Snow and Ross' Goose migration. The project was initially aimed at Lesser Snow Geese of the Western Canadian Arctic, but has been expanded to include Lesser Snow Geese of Wrangel Island, USSR, and Ross' and Lesser Snow Geese of the Central Canadian Arctic. The project's objectives are to determine population sizes, spatial and temporal distribution, distribution and rates of harvest, survival rates, and relationships among populations. Neck and leg banding of Lesser Snow Geese in the Western Canadian Arctic began in 1987. In 1988, neckbanding will continue in the Western Canadian Arctic and begin on Wrangel Island. Neckbanding of Ross' and Lesser Snow Geese should begin in the Central Canadian Arctic in 1989. Success of the project relies on information provided by observers who sight neckbanded geese on wintering grounds and during spring and fall migration. Any sightings in Nebraska can be reported to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. A special effort should be made to identify the color of neckbands sighted.

Identification as Ross' Geese was made based on characteristics outlined by Bellrose, 1976. These characteristics are: a short stubby bill (average length of culmen 1.6 in.), warty protuberances between the nostrils and the base of the upper bill, lack of the black "grin patch" typical in Lesser Snow Geese, overall small body size and weight, and shorter neck.

LITERATURE CITED

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 1985. *Wildlife Disease and Mortality Investigations, Work Plan S-85.*

Bellrose, F. C. 1976. *Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America.* Stackpole Books Harrisburg, Pa.

--- *Randy G. Stutheit, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2200 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, Neb. 68503*

TUNDRA SWANS IN LINCOLN COUNTY, NEBRASKA

On 16 March 1988 Ron Hoffman and I observed nine Tundra Swans *(Cygnus columbianus)* on a sandpit lake approximately 4 miles east of the I-80 interchange at North Platte. The lake's legal description is T13N, R29W, SW¼ of Section 8. The Swans were reported to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's North Platte office at 10:30 that morning by a former resident of Nebraska's Sandhill region. He thought the Swans looked identical to Trumpeter Swans *(Cygnus buccinator)* he had observed while living on a ranch near Hyannis. While leading us to the lake he mentioned that the nine Swans had been using the sandpit for nearly a week, and had been feeding in a nearby picked cornfield.

Immediately upon arriving at the lake we identified the nine birds as Swans by their large size, snowy white body plumage, long necks held nearly vertically erect, and dark, broad bills held horizontally. Five of the Swans were adults, as indicated by black bills, snowy white face, head, and neck plumage, and slightly larger body size. Four of the Swans were immatures as indicated by smokey greyish-brown feathers along the back and sides of the neck and the cheek and crown areas.

All nine birds were swimming deliberately broadside to our observation point, then gradually swam away from us. We could not see the legs and feet to note coloration, but were able to notice that the immatures' bill color

was not the pinkish color of younger immatures, but was the uniform gray-black color characteristic of late winter/early spring juvenile plumage (Bellrose 1980). The birds were silent throughout our observation.

These Tundra Swans were distinguished from Trumpeter Swans by conspicuous canary yellow spots near the base of their bills, just anterior to their eyes. They were distinguished from Mute Swans by their erect neck posture and lack of yellow bill.

Weather conditions at 11:00 AM included a cloudy sky (3,000 foot ceiling at Lee Bird Field), 25 degrees Farenheit temperature, southeast winds at 7 mph, and infrequent light snow flurries throughout the late afternoon. Despite these conditions, lighting was relatively bright and diffuse and did not hinder observation or identification.

Both 7 by 50 mm Bushnell binoculars and a 20 to 45 X Bushnell spotting scope were used to observe the birds. The Swans swam to within 100 yards, but were often 125 to 150 yards distant during our observation. Several different field guides and Nebraska references had been consulted on the day prior to the sighting, while identifying a single Mute Swan at a nearby sandpit lake. Both observers were thus "refreshed" concerning swan identification. Immediately following the sighting we again perused several references to substantiate our field observations.

Greg Hoover, president fo the Tout Bird Club, visited the site later the same day and was able to locate and observe the four immature Tundra Swans, but did not see the adults. Two days later, as Greg and Ron Hoffman attempted to obtain video footage of the four immatures, they took flight and were not seen again.

The Tundra Swan is termed an uncommon or occasional spring migrant, primarily expected in eastern or northeastern Nebraska (Johnsgard, 1986), a casual spring transient in northwestern Nebraska (Rosche 1982), and an uncommon migrant, with two spring sightings listed for Lincoln Co. (Tout Bird Club 1973). Bellrose defines a normal migration corridor that swings east at Devil's Lake, North Dakota, and continues towards Chesapeake Bay. Only rarely do Tundra Swwns appear south of this corridor. This Lincoln Co. sighting was thought unusual enough to be sent to the Nebraska Records Committee,

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Johnsgard, Paul A., 1986. *A Revised List of the Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States.* Occ. Pap. Nebr. Ornith. Union, No. 6, 3rd printing. 113 pp.

Rosche, Richard C., 1982. *Birds of Northwestern Nebraska and Southwestern South Dakota.* Published by the author, Chadron, Nebraska. 100 pp.

Tout Bird Club, 1973. *Birds of Lincoln County, Nebraska.* Published by the Tout Bird Club, North Platte, Nebraska. 120 pp.

--- Greg Windfield, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Route 4, Box 36, North Platte, Nebraska 69101

A SECOND BALD EAGLE NEST IN NEBRASKA

The Bald Eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)* in Nebraska is considered an uncommon migrant and locally common winter resident. Formerly, the species was a common breeder in eastern Nebraska (Johnsgard, 1986). The only previously known modern (1900s) nesting attempt took place in 1973 in Cedar Co., northeast of Crofton, Nebraska (Lock and Shuckman, 1973). This nest occurred along the Missouri River, downstream of Lewis and Clark Reservoir. Between the latter part of January and 25 March 1973, a pair of Eagles was observed while building a nest, copulating, perching near the nest, and sitting on the completed nest. Eventually, the nest was abandoned and it was believed that egg laying did not take place.

A second Bald Eagle nest attempt was documented during March and April 1987, in Garden Co., west of Lewellen, Nebraska. John Davis, of Alliance, Nebraska, inititally observed the nest and subsequently reported it to the Alliance office of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). Mr. Davis, while driving a sales route along highway 26 through the Panhandle,

was able to make weekly observations at the nest site. He initially observed an adult carrying material to the nest on 2 March, then sitting on the nest 12 March. The pair was also observed on and around the nest by Don Hunt, Conservation Officer, NGPC, and by Paul Jeske, whose 1 April sighting was the last before the nest was abandoned.

When I visited the nest site 15 April no Eagles were present. The nest occurs in a mature cottonwood approximately 50 to 55 feet tall, and sits within 10 feet of the tree's top. The tree lies 150 yards north of the North Platte River, and 450 yards south of highway 26. An old gravel pit lake lies beween the highway and the nest tree. My attempt to climb the branch leading to the nest failed. When I was finally able to check the nest for its contents, during an aerial survey 19 May 1987, the nest was empty. Over six weeks had elapsed since the Eagles were last sighted, so it is impossible to be positive that no egg had been laid.

During March 1988 the nest was occupied again. On 8 March, Hunt reported that the birds had been around the nest for nearly a week. Subsequent visits by NGPC personnel (Dan Klammer, Hunt, Jeske, R. L. Nelson, and G. Wingfield) throughout the following month frequently found one Eagle sitting on the nest. During seven hours of total observation on 9-11 March a bird was sitting on the nest for 4.5 hours, was off the nest but in the nest tree for 1.5 hours, and was away from the site for the remaining i hour.

Every effort was made to prevent disturbance of the area. Through an agreement with the landowner, we posted the area with No Access signs, and had padlocked the pasture's gate. The frequent visits by NGPC personnel were also intended to prevent harassment. The Eagles did not appear to be bothered by traffic along the highway. Despite these efforts, the nest was abandoned as it had been in 1987. The Eagles were last seen on 30 March 1988. A 13 April aerial survey again found the nest empty.

LITERATURE CITED

Johnsgard, Paul A., 1986. *A Revised List of Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States*. Occ. Pap. Nebr. Ornith. Union., No. 6, 3rd Printing, 113 pp.

Lock, Ross A., and Schuckman, J., 1973. A Bald Eagle Nest in Nebraska. *NBR* 41:76-77.

--- *Greg Wingfield, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Route 4, Box 36, North Platte, Neb. 69101*

BOOK REVIEWS

Bird Navigation: The Solution of a Mystery?, R. Robin Baker, 1984, Holmes & Meier Publishers, Inc., New York. vi + 256 pp., ISBN 0-340-33416-9, softcover, no price given. Originally published by Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. in Great Britain but handled in the United States by Holmes & Meier Publishers, Inc., Import Division, IUB Building, 30 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003.

R. Robin Baker, Reader in Zoology at the University of Manchester, is a noted authority on avian navigation. The word "solution" in the title of this book is somewhat misleading because this book does not solve the mystery of how birds navigate. However, this book is the most thorough, up-to-date review of the various theories on how birds navigate, and integrates these theories to give the reader an idea of how birds might really navigate. The author does an excellent job of presenting all the different ideas in an easily understood and easy to read style. Discussions of each theory include some of the history behind the research, how each theory fits with other theories, how each theory might work on short and long distance movements, and what research needs to be conducted in the future to help clarify how birds navigate. The book explains how birds might navigate under one set of conditions and switch to another navigation technique when conditions change. A fascinating topic presented in a very readable manner.

--- *Thomas E. Labedz, Division of Zoology, University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, Nebn. 68588*

The Last of the Curlews, Fred Bodsworth, illustrated by T. M. Shortt, x + 144 pp., 6 x 9, Dodd Mead & Co., N.Y. $17.95 hard cover, $8.95 soft cover.

This is a reprint, with a foreword by Dr. Harold D. Mahan, and as part of the Edwin Way Teale Library of Nature Classics, of a book originally published in 1955. At that time it was thought (fortunately, incorrectly) that the Eskimo Curlew was extinct, and this is the story of a year in the life of the last bird. Ascribing human-type thoughts and reactions to the bird helps to carry the story along and doesn't seem to be overdone. It is interesting reading and the illustrations are very nice, and, presently at least, one can keep in the back of his mind that the Eskimo Curlews are still in existence. The author is careful to distinguish between Hudsonian Curlews and Whimbrels, but A.O.U. combined them after the book was written.

A Naturalist's Sketchbook Pages from the Seasons of the Year, Clare Walker Leslie, 102 pp., 8½ x 11, bibliography, Dodd Mead & Co., N.Y., $22.95 hard cover, $12.95 soft cover.

This is a revision and enlargement of the author's *Notes from a Naturalist's Notebook*. Much of it is in the form of hand lettered notes and sketches, as in a sketch book, with some pages in type. It is a composite year of her life in Cambridge, Mass., and Granville, Vt., and the things of interest she finds - birds, animals, insects, reptiles, plants, whatever. Interesting in itself to the ordinary reader, it has at times comments on her methods and materials in making the sketches which will be helpful to anyone interested as an artist, and one section of the bibliography is on drawing techniques.

Bird Walk Through the Bible, Virginia C. Holmgren, 216 pp. 5 3/8 x 8½, bibliography, Dover Publications,N. Y., soft cover $4.95

This "is an unabridged, slightly corrected republication of the work first published" in 1972. It should be of interest to anyone interested in the birds of the Bible, or just in birds of the Near East. Several factors complicate the identification of birds mentioned in the Bible: there was no official check-list, so different names might be applied to the same species by different people, and the name might be non-specific, similar to chicken hawk or hoot-owl; there were no guide books nor binoculars, so birds of similar appearance might not be distinguished; Hebrew writes only the consonants and the choice of the vowels is up to the reader, so there can be uncertainty about what word is indicated. An alphabetized glossary makes up a large part of the book, which probably is why there is no index. There are also lists of specific references in the Bible, as well as other information.

Life Histories of North American Petrels and Pelicans and their Allies, A. C. Bent, xiv + 336 + 69 pages of black-and-white platees, 5 3/8 x 8½,. Dover Publications, N. Y., soft cover $9.95

The original Dover reprint reissued unchanged.

Love of Loons. Kate Crowley and Mike Link, photography by Peter Roberts. 96 pp. 8½ x 11. bibliography, index. Voyageur Press Inc., Stillwater, Minnesota, soft cover $12.95.

A survey of information about loons, primarily the Common Loon, from prehistory on, but mostly about present conditiions, with interesting anecdotes. If you are interested in reading about loons this is a good start, and the bibliography will help you fill in the parts that you want to know more about. If you like to look at pictures of loons, here they are. A book for loon-lovers, or those who could be loon-lovers, or those who just like nature, or good photography, or both.

Photographing Wildflowers Techniques for the Advanced Amateur and Professional. Craig and Nadine Blacklock, 64 pp. 8½ x 11, index. Voyageur Press Inc., Stillwater, Minnesota, soft cover $9.95.

This book contains very detailed instructions for photographing flowers, with notes on the variations necessary in photographing fungi, berries, mosses and lichens, ferns, moving water, leaves, ice, and feathers. Anyone, not the Blacklocks' equal in the field, who is interested, even casually, in this type of photography will benefit from the Blacklocks' advice. And those who are not interested in taking such photographs may find the example photographs worth the price of the book.

Fall Field Day, 8-9 October, 4-H Camp, Halsey

NOTES

YOUNG GREAT HORNED OWLS On 5 April 1988 we banded two young Great Horned Owls that were in a nest near Laurel, in Cedar Co., Neb. An adult Owl was first seen on this nest 3 March. The nest was approximately 31 feet above the ground in a dead Siberian elm tree. One adult Owl was in the nest as we approached it at about 7:00 PM. The adult bird flew off the nest and remained about 200 meters away, in a small grove of trees. It took us about 35 minutes to set up our ladder, retrieve and band the owlets, and return them to their nest. The adult bird called occasionally during this time. An interesting discovery was that of the carcass of an American Coot in the nest with the owlets. The head and most of the body had apparently been eaten, but the rump, tail, and legs were still intact.

--- Dave and Lois Stage, Box 354, Laurel, Neb. 68745

A NOCTURNALLY FORAGING WESTERN KINGBIRD IN LANCASTER CO. On 21 August 1987 I observed a nocturnally foraging Western Kingbird *(Tyrannus verticalis)* in Lincoln, Nebraska. The bird could not be found on subsequent evenings.

At 2315 hours the Kingbird was observed flying north across N Street between 9th and 10th streets. the bird alighted in a tree, directly beneath a mercury vapor street lamp, along the N Street frontage and adopted a perch approximately 3.5 meters above the street. From 2317 to 2349 seven forage flights were observed. All flights were initiated from the same perch, the distal end of a leafless branch, with captures made approximately 5 to 6 meters above N Street. All captures were made well within the cone of light supplied by the street lamp, and flying insects were clearly visible to the observer.

In 4 years of observing Kingbird forage behavior I have never observed nor heard of anyone else observing this strange nocturnal behavior. I have, however, observed the attraction of this species to street lamps. Urban Western Kingbirds will often congregate beneath these lights just after daybreak, preying on dead and dying insects drawn to the light during the preceding night. It is quite possible that Western Kingbirds have learned to forage nocturnally in the intensely lit area of downtown Lincoln. This forage behavior would utilize a seemingly superabundant and underexploited resource. Possibly this hypothesis will be confirmed by observations next summer.

--- Kurt Dean, 2221 N. 60th., Lincoln, Neb. 68505

A LATE BLUE GROSBEAK On 11 December 1987 I captured and banded (1341-86576) a Blue Grosbeak *(Guiraca caerulea)* near Laurel, Cedar Co., Neb. I identified it as being a hatching year Blue Grosbeaks as its skull was incompletely ossified. Pyle et al. (1987) indicate that ossification in hatching year Blue Grosbeaks occurs from 1 October through January. This bird's plumage was mostly brown, with two chestnut wing bars, brown head and back, light brown belly, whitish throat feathers and a dark brown upper tail. There was no blue in any of the feathers. Pyle et al. report that hatching year birds cannot be sexed by plumage unless the males show some blue feathers or dull black flight feathers. They also indicate that they may be sexed by wing length, the males ranging from 82 to 94 mm and females from 79 to 88 mm. On this particular bird the length of the right wing was 85.0 mm and the left wing 86.0 mm. Therefore, the bird could not be sexed.

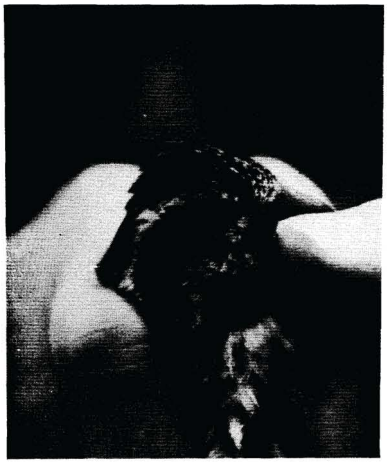
I recaptured this bird on 18 and 25 December. It was not seen again after 25 December. Johnsgard (1986) reports that the latest recorded fall date for Blue Grosbeak in Nebraska is 13 October. Therefore, this appears to be the latest recorded date for Blue Grosbeaks in Nebraska.

Literature Cited

Johnsgard, P. A. 1986. *A Revised List of the Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States.* Occasional Papers of the N.O.U. No. 6.

Pyle, P., S. N. G. Howell, R. P. Yunick, and D. F. DeSante. 1987. *Identification Guide to North American Passerines.* Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, California.

--- David Stage, Box 354, Laurel, Neb. 68745



Gape

Incomplete feather tract

YOUNG PURPLE FINCH. On 20 April 1987 I banded an immature (Hatching Year) Purple Finch in my yard. The band number was 2051/04115. I have banded hundreds of Purple Finches, but have never seen but this one that had an orange gape and juvenile plumage with an incomplete feather tract. This bird had to have been fledged relatively close, and it is presumed that Purple Finches do not breed in eastern Nebraska. I am enclosoing pictures to prove the age of this bird. It can also be verified by Bruce Lund, Director, Kay Young, Chief Naturalist, and Gail Roebuck, Naturalist, all of Fontenelle Forest. This record has been accepted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Banding Laboratory.

Juvenile plumage

--- Ruth Green, 506 W. 31st Avenue, Bellevue, Neb. 68005

PANDORA SPHINX MOTH. In October 1987 a third-grade student brought in a rather large moth for me to identify. His father had found it in their garage, and even though it was dead it was still in excellent condition. I took one look at it and knew I had never seen one like it in Nebraska before. I couldn't find it in the small refernce book I had, so I went to the Fontenelle Forest Nature Center for a larger book and all the help I could get. Bruce Lund and Russ Benedict helped identify the dark green and black insect as the Pandora sphinx moth. It is not usually seen north of Kansas in the Midwest, though its range is further north in the eastern states. It feeds on grape and Virginia creeper and also petunias. It is crepuscular in its feeding habits, which means it is active at dawn and dusk. It may have been out of range,

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

but like birds, moths have wings and they fly.

--- *Ruth Green, 506 W. 31st Avenue, Bellevue, Neb. 68005*

CHIMNEY SWIFTS. On 3 October 1984 I got a telephone call to come to Avery School, in Bellevue, and "see if you can do something abouit these bats, or barn swallows, or SOMETHING that are flying about in the boiler room!". Needless to say, I wasted no time in getting there as quickly as I could, for I had a pretty good idea of what the "somethings" would be. I walked into a small, unused boiler room and I saw several Chimney Swifts clinging to the walls. Neither the custodian, Craig Parks, nor I could figure out how they got inside the building, and the Swifts couldn't figure out how to get out. I wanted to get them out as quickly as posible because sure death awaited them unless they had access to food in a short time. I decided to use a butterfly net to pick them off the walls. Of course that sounds a lot easier than it was. Several of them found a crevice inside a window well to hide in and that presemted another problem how to get up that high. But Craig was a real sport so up he went over dusty boiler and pipes to fish them out. There were moments when he was clinging as precariously to his perch as the Swifts, but between the two of us we managed to reach down 25 birds without a single injury. It was a real thrill to release these little high-flying birds and send them on their way to their wintering grounds in the Amazon River Valley of South America.

--- *Ruth C. Green, 506 W. 31st Avenue, Bellevue, Neb. 68005*

(Quoted from *A Bird's Eye View*, XIII, No. 9.)